

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Early childhood education grant program.

Sponsored by: (s) Hdraft

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to early childhood education programs;
2 establishing a grant program for high quality programs
3 provided by school districts and service providers;
4 specifying grant purposes and expenditure criteria;
5 imposing duties on the department of education and granting
6 rulemaking authority; requiring reporting; providing an
7 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11 **Section 1.**

12

13 (a) To assist with the development, maintenance and
14 enhancement of high quality early childhood education

1 programs, including programs for educationally
2 disadvantaged children, the director of the department of
3 education shall establish a grant program available to
4 school districts and early childhood education service
5 providers. Program grants shall be available to school
6 districts and to service providers for supplementing
7 amounts available locally and otherwise for programs that
8 improve child readiness and subsequent achievement in
9 kindergarten programs, including the readiness and
10 achievement of educationally disadvantaged children as
11 defined by the department. Program grants shall be
12 expended for the following purposes:

13

14 (i) Initiation or completion of a community
15 needs assessment and strategic plan for the creation of
16 early childhood education services and supports;

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18 (ii) Identification of local resources and
19 services for pre-kindergarten children and an evaluation of
20 local programs and support services;

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1 (iii) Coordination and expansion of
2 infrastructure to support high-quality early childhood
3 education programs;

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5 (iv) Collaboration with classroom teachers,
6 parents, community, volunteer and social service agencies
7 and organizations;

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9 (v) Development of program components focusing
10 on early childhood literacy;

11

12 (vi) Professional development and training.

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14 (b) A process for grant administration under this
15 section shall be established by rule and regulation of the
16 director, promulgated in sufficient time to enable awarding
17 of grants to applicant school districts and service
18 providers during school year 2014-2015. Notice of the
19 grant program together with necessary application forms and
20 program information shall be provided to school districts
21 and existing service providers operating in the state by
22 May 1, 2014. Evaluation of applications shall be based
23 upon criteria specified in subsection (a) of this section

1 and no district or service provider shall be awarded more
2 than one (1) grant under this subsection. Grant amounts
3 for a successful applicant shall consider and be subject to
4 the following:

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6 (i) The number of children estimated to
7 participate or currently participating in the program;

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9 (ii) The total program costs;

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11 (iii) The total amounts available locally or
12 otherwise for the program for which the grant is to
13 supplement;

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15 (iv) A maximum award amount of one hundred fifty
16 thousand dollars (\$150,000.00).

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18 (c) Each grant recipient shall report to the director
19 on the expenditure of grant amounts awarded under this
20 section, including the number of children served by the
21 early childhood education program and support services, the
22 impact of the award on total program delivery and the
23 ability of the community to address early childhood

1 education needs through use of the grant award. The
2 director shall compile the reports collected under this
3 subsection and shall report the compilation to the joint
4 education interim committee and the joint health, labor and
5 social services interim committee. On or before November
6 1, 2014, the director shall also report to the joint
7 education interim committee on any recommendation for
8 program continuation together with a summary of grants
9 awarded under this section.

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11 (d) For the period commencing July 1, 2014, and
12 ending June 30, 2015, one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00)
13 is appropriated from the general fund to the department of
14 education for the grant award program authorized by this
15 section.

16

17 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
18 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
19 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
20 Constitution.

21

22

(END)

